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JPRS L/10519

14 May 1982

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 22/82)



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

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AUSTRALIA

TWO GET TOTAL OF 12 YEARS IN JAIL FOR HEROIN TRAFFICKING

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 13 Mar 82 p 26

[Text] **Two heroin traffickers were gaoled for a total of 12 years yesterday by the Chief Justice, Sir Francis Burt.**

In the Supreme Court, the judge said he took the view previously expressed by the courts that the drug problem should be attacked by deterrent penalties.

John Kizon (19), of Hansworth Street, Balcatta, who has represented Australia as an amateur boxer, was gaoled for five years with a two-year minimum.

A middleweight, Kizon fought in the King's Cup in Thailand in 1979-80.

Craig Patrick Martin (25), service-station attendant, of Murphy Way, Warnbro, was gaoled for seven years with no minimum sentence.

Last month they were convicted in a jury trial of selling heroin at Morley in October last year.

Martin was also found guilty of an additional charge of having heroin in his possession in Victoria Park in November last year.

FOLLOWING

During the trial, the jury was told that the police had been following the defendants from a house in Morley where heroin was later found.

A detective said that when he pulled up alongside a sports car at traffic lights the defendants

jumped out of the vehicle, leaving the engine running, and ran off.

Kizon had been captured after a warning shot was fired by the police. Martin had escaped at that time but was arrested the next month.

When the police searched the sports car they had found \$900 inside.

The judge said: "Neither of you took heroin, so it is not a case of an addict sustaining his own addiction. You were trading for profit."

Sentencing Martin, he said that Martin had committed the offences while on parole. In fact, he owed the parole board 25 months.

Because of Martin's long list of previous convictions, the Chief Justice said, he was not prepared to impose a minimum sentence in Martin's case.

Dealing with Kizon was more difficult because he was a young man with a good reputation.

"You were involved in the distribution of drugs for profit and must accept the consequences of that," he said.

CSO: 5300/7545

AUSTRALIA

DEFUNCT NUGAN HAND BANK CHIEFS CALLED DRUG TRAFFICKERS

Narcotics Bureau Report

Melbourne THE AGE in English 19 Mar 82 p 4

[Text]

CANBERRA. — Narcotics Bureau files named the principals of the failed Nugan Hand bank, Frank Nugan and Michael Hand, as important figures in the heroin industry in Australia, the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Hayden said yesterday.

He used a further extract from Narcotics Bureau files, which he has been disclosing this week, to question the Minister for Administrative Services, Mr Newman, about the failure of the bureau to investigate information supplied to it about the bank before it collapsed.

Mr Hayden asked if Mr Newman was aware that a note, dated 3 May 1977, on the Narcotics Bureau files described Frank Nugan and Michael Hand as "bigger than anything you have ever seen here in the heroin game and are said to be part of an American security organisation".

Earlier in the week Mr Hayden told Parliament that the bureau's number two officer, Mr Brian Bates, had ordered the bureau to cease investigate the activities of Nugan Hand. This order appears to have come after receipt of the information on the file which Mr Hayden read to Parliament yesterday.

(The executive producer of the Channel Nine programme National News Today, Mr Ian Frykberg, has denied a report in 'The Age' on Wednesday that the programme supplied Mr Hayden with the files which he has been using to question the Government about the Nugan Hand matter).

Mr Hayden yesterday repeated his previous refusal, in the face of Government challenges, to table the files. He said this would endanger informants who were named in the files. He said they were Narcotics Bureau files and should

therefore be available to the Government.

Mr Hayden asked why, if there had been a "most serious and intensive investigation" of Nugan Hand, as Mr Newman had claimed, no action was taken "until after one of them shot himself 2½ years later?"

Mr Newman said he was not aware of the reports. "Nor should I be, because I had no responsibility for the Narcotics Bureau," he said.

The Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, told Parliament yesterday that he had received the first report of the joint police task force, established by the NSW and Federal Governments, to investigate drug trafficking.

The task force is examining the findings of the Williams and the Woodward Royal Commissions on drugs. The first report deals with the activities of the Nugan Hand bank, and its dealings with Murray Stewart Riley and Harry Wainwright.

International Heroin Dealing

Melbourne THE AGE in English 19 Mar 82 p 4

[Text]

SYDNEY. — The Nugan Hand international bank controlled the running of drugs from South-East Asia to Australia and America,

according to a man who had dealings with the bank's deputy chairman, Mr Michael Hand.

The man, Mr Andrew

Lowe, said on TV yesterday: "In the beginning they started off in a small way and then it grew to the extent where they took over the whole business of running drugs, actually running drugs."

Mr Lowe, who told a Channel Nine programme 'National News Today', that he was a convicted drug dealer, said he had introduced leaders of Chinese triads, or criminal societies, to Mr Hand. "He assured them that he had secure methods of bringing drugs into the country. Like through the days of Vietnam, they were able to smuggle 20 to 40 pounds of heroin in the bodies of dead GIs back to the States."

Mr Lowe said he believed investigations of the affairs of the Nugan Hand organisation had been hindered by high-level intervention. "I'm not able to mention names at this stage but there were high-ranking Government members and politicians that were involved."

CSO: 5300/7547

AUSTRALIA

POLICE SAY SUNSHINE COAST NOW PLAYS LEADING DRUG ROLE

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 19 Mar 82 p 3

[Text]

NAMBOUR. — The Sunshine Coast, particularly Noosa, was the centre of a heavy drug scene, according to local CIB chief, Sgt B. Glover.

Sgt Glover said yesterday the Sunshine Coast was supplying drugs for the rest of Australia.

Police regularly found plots of 1500 to 2000 plants in the bush in the coastal hinterland.

Southern criminals buying holiday homes on the Sunshine Coast had helped to boost the coast's drug scene by 150 percent, he said.

Drug arrests on the coast had risen by 150 percent in the 12 months to last June. The incidence of most other criminal offences had risen at a steady rate of about 25 percent a year.

"Beenleigh and the Gold Coast are the only areas increasing more rapidly," Sgt Glover said.

"We have a really heavy drug scene here, particularly in the Noosa area.

Sgt Glover said cannabis was the drug most commonly grown, but there was also a lot of golden topped mushrooms, cocaine and heroin.

The coast had recently suffered another spate of attempted drug snatches from chemists and doctors' surgeries.

Yesterday Caloundra Magistrates' Court was told that a man grew his own cannabis because he did not want to become associated with the coast's drug scene.

Glen Roy Lutton, 29, of Landsborough was fined \$400 for the cultivation of cannabis, \$250 for possession of cannabis and \$150 for possession of a utensil for taking drugs.

Lutton pleaded guilty to the charges.

Police prosecutor, Constable R. Butler, said police found cannabis on Lutton's property, growing up to 80cm high in pots and up to 1.5m high in the bush.

Mr I. McAllister, for Lutton, said: "He's growing it so he can stay away from drug users and the drug scene."

CSO: 5300/7547

BURMA

EDITORIAL: NATIONAL DRUG CAMPAIGN REVIEWED

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 4 Apr 82 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

THE problem of drug abuse is an evil legacy inherited from the colonial past. When the whole of Burma became a colony with the fall of Mandalay in 1885, the colonial regime stepped up its opium trade with the sole aim of earning more revenues with utter indifference to the consequences of the imposed evil. The 1878 Opium Act established government monopoly over the opium trade. In 1905 the government formed the Excise Department and demarcated the territory east of Salween as opium region and allowed the local residents to abuse opium freely. Although the dangerous drugs were banned from the other parts of the country, profiteers ran opium dens in most major towns and corrupt excise officers turned their eyes the other way while the addicts wasted away and the vice merchants fattened up gradually.

After the country proclaimed independence in 1948, the government promised to banish dangerous drugs totally from the whole country within five years and made a number of anti-drug laws. The deadline however expired with the declared goal nowhere near being realized. After the Revolutionary Council came to power in 1962, the problem of the abuse of dangerous drugs was given serious attention. A committee

was appointed for the task of compiling a report on the destruction of poppy plantations, treatment of drug addiction and revision and replacement of outdated laws. On the recommendations of the committee opium dens throughout the Shan State were closed down and a crop substitution programme was launched with the aim of replacing opium poppy with other cash crops.

However, the drug abuse problem assumed more serious proportions with the appearance of a highly potent derivative of the opium, heroin, in Rangoon in 1972. The government enforced the new Narcotic Drugs Law in 1974 enhancing the punishment for drug-related offences. The First Pyithu Hluttaw at its Fourth Session held in October 1975 called for a national campaign to combat the drug problem. The Ministry of Home & Religious Affairs appointed the Central Narcotic Drugs Control Board the same year, with subcommittees under it charged with drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of addicts, purchase of legally produced opium and drug abuse prevention education.

The Tatmadaw, with the co-operation of the people, has been waging numerous campaigns to suppress the drug problem by destroying poppy plantations. More than

36,700 acres of poppy plantations were wiped out between 1975 and 1980. With assistance from the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, a multi-faceted programme to control drug abuse and rehabilitation of the addicts is under way since 1976.

The Party Chairman once pointed out that the dangerous drugs can lead to extinction of entire nations. We must, therefore, intensify the national campaign, raise the public awareness for drug abuse prevention and attack the drug abuse problem with renewed vigour until total victory is achieved.

CSO: 5300/5722

INDIA

RECORD DRUGS HAUL MADE, INTERNATIONAL GANG DETECTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Apr 82 p 10

[Text] THE Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) here has detected an international gang of drug traffickers operating in India and European countries with the seizure of a huge quantity of superior quality hashish at Delhi Airport early this week, reports UNI.

In the biggest narcotics haul in Delhi in recent years, 20 kg of hashish, estimated to be worth more than Rs 80 lakhs in the underground world of Europe and the United States, was recovered on Monday night from an unclaimed suitcase which was smuggled clandestinely through the customs and put on the conveyor belt reportedly with the connivance of some people at the airport.

The Geneva-bound suitcase was taken out by the DRI officials from the conveyor belt for thorough screening.

Two foreign nationals — a Swiss and a West German — are being questioned by the authorities.

The activities of the gang having international ramifications and responsible for smuggling hashish out of India came to light following intelligence gathered by DRI.

The DRI officials were intrigued how the suitcase with hashish was put on the conveyor belt and by whom. The suitcase had the international airline label for identification. Following investigation it was found that the series of the label of the airline was allocated to its Geneva station and not Delhi.

Further interrogation of the two foreign nationals revealed that hashish was allegedly delivered to them at Bombay on 3 April by a Punjabi smuggler settled in Bombay. The two brought the narcotics to Delhi on 9 April.

The Bombay-based smuggler, having contacts in the underground world, was detained by the Bombay unit of DRI immediately after his involvement was divulged by the two foreign nationals. The Punjabi smuggler had been held under COFEPOSA in 1980 and the trial of a smuggling case against him was still going on in a Delhi Court.

The Delhi contact of the racketeers has reportedly absconded after he heard of their detention. The DRI has thrown its netwide to catch him.

CSO: 5300/7027

MALAYSIA

DRUG ADDICTION INCREASING IN SARAWAK

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 28 Mar 82 p 11

[Article by James Ritchie]

[Excerpts]

Records show that there were slightly more than 300 opium addicts (there were no registered heroin addicts at that time) in 1970 — this being a legacy of the days of the "White Rajas" who legalised opium farming as a source of revenue.

Even by 1975 the growth began slowly with a slight increase to 375 addicts — both of heroin and opium. The menace gained momentum until today, where there are about 1,000 registered addicts in the State and possibly about the same number of un-registered ones.

Little effort was put into wiping out the problem in the early stages as there was minimal data regarding heroin addiction, but by 1976 there were reports that a syndicate linking Penang, KL, Kuching, and Bandar Seri Begawan was making in-roads into Sarawak.

(The syndicate used Brunei as one of their "drop-points" before the drug is smuggled into Sarawak by sea or overland.)

However, Sarawak police got wind of the syndicate's operations and plans for Sarawak and broke the Peninsular Malaysia-Sarawak link. In August 1977 they detained the main trafficker at Subang.

In the follow-up the Sarawak team led by CID chief Assistant Commissioner Daniel Leong Nyuk Min, which worked closely with the headquarters in KL, picked up two more members of the syndicate in Penang and Kuching (one of them was subsequently sent to Pulau Jerejak for two years) while the mastermind was sentenced to five years).

1977 was also a significant year as the State managed to identify the drug problem which was beginning to grow out of hand.

That year 41 raids were carried out with 80 suspected drug pushers being arrested. The war against dadah had begun.

Some of the hauls were as high as 1,140gm of heroin, 880gm of opium and 715gm of ganja.

Dedine

This temporarily stunned the drug pedlars and their dependants. There was a decline in both the hauls and the number of arrests. In 1980, 15gm of heroin, 1.22gms of opium and 1.77gms of ganja were seized and 45 suspected pushers were arrested — against the 80 in 1977.

But figures of seizures and arrests alone were no yardstick to judge the success of

the anti-dadah authorities. Last year's figures show that the seizures and arrests have increased with 94 suspected pushers being picked up.

ACP Daniel Leong said that among some of the big successes were the arrest of a big-time pusher in Kuching, seizures of 250 rolls of ganja, the cracking up of a four-man gang and seizures of 180 rolls of ganja at Kuala Baram, and the detention of a man and 1,700gms of opium at Miri.

Three people including a woman were detained in Bintulu and 108 gms of heroin seized.

Though the problem in the mid-70s did not seem widespread, the State Government was far-sighted enough to establish a detection centre at the 11th km Penrissen road on March 29 1979. Similar approval was given for Sibu and Miri where the dadah disease was beginning to spread.

Recommendations by police led to the establishment of the rehabilitation centre at the 10th mile Penrissen road Kuching in the same year. It can now accommodate 1,000 addicts.

In a massive sweep last year, Sarawak police picked up 237 suspected addicts — their largest arrest so far — out of which 112 were sent to the rehabilitation centre while the rest were released due to lack of evidence.

The large amount of opium seized last year is also an indication that with the scarcity of heroin and morphine in the local market, dependents were getting desperate for such substitutes.

Syndicates have found it not worthwhile smuggling harder drugs into Sarawak because of the strict airport checks, small demand and high risks.

Police have identified the areas of demand and have been able to monitor the movement of most of the pushers and addicts.

Another factor is the travel distance in the State. It has been established that because of this, traffickers have used the KL-Kuching route to supply the town and Sibu nearly 500km away while the KL-Brunei route supply the towns further north such as Miri and Limbang.

To make his trip worthwhile the trafficker must also charge a "fortune." By the time heroin is smuggled from the Golden Triangle to Penang, KL and Kuching it could cost between \$30,000 to \$50,000 per pound in the wholesale market.

A tube of heroin in Kuching today is between \$16 to \$30 and hard-core addicts need several to meet daily requirements.

The State Government's war against dadah saw the extension of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (1962) to Sarawak in 1978. This law provides the death penalty or life imprisonment for convicted dadah traffickers.

Two years later (1980), an anti-narcotics branch was formed and today it has 108 members with plans to set up dog units in Kuching, Sibu and Miri this year.

CSO: 5300/8324

NEPAL

BRIEFS

TWO HELD ON NARCOTIC CHARGES--Kathmandu, April 13--A British national, Keith Charles Domann has been arrested on the charge of collecting and selling narcotic drugs and things of archaeological importance, reports RSS. Police seized two kg of hashish and some goods of archaeological importance. Likewise, Harishchandra Poudel a resident of Parbat district and student of Tribhuvan University was arrested along with two kg of hashish at Basantpur, it was learnt from the police. [Text] [Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 14 Apr 82 p 4]

CSO: 5300/5722

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

HEROIN THREAT NOTED--A "spill over" of heroin threatens the country as a result of last year's bumper opium crop in the Golden Triangle in Indochina, the dangerous drugs board (DDB) disclosed yesterday. The board said that although the country is not a lucrative heroin market, it has been used as a transit country by international heroin traders. Dope traffic was already observed slowly picking up in Manila, Debu, and Angeles, the DDB said, adding law enforcers have seized 267 grams of heroin from three carriers since last year. The apprehensions showed that highly addictive heroin seized in the country either came from Pakistan or from Thailand. It was on the way to the United States. The unlawful cultivation of marijuana also continued despite intensive drug law enforcement efforts the previous year, the DDB noted. This has led the DDB, the coordinating agency of all anti-drug abuse activities, to intensify its drive against the local drug problem. DDB Executive Director Manuel Supnet underscored the need to step up preventive measures, including educational campaigns against drug abuse. Suggesting that anti-drug education be integrated into the school curricula, Supnet also pressed plans to strengthen the youth mobilization program this year. An intricate prevention strategy involving a layered prevention system with parents acting as the "first level of prevention" and the schools as the "second level" will be carried out, he said. Supnet added that the DDB's present information thrust aims to make people realize that "the best time to prevent drug abuse is before it starts." [Text] [Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 10 Apr 82 pp 1, 9]

CSO: 5300/5724

THAILAND

REACTION TO CONSUL'S ARREST IN CHICAGO

Sitthi, Arun Comment

BK030626 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Arun Phanuphong yesterday told reporters at the airport of the air force command headquarters, where he was waiting for the return of Prime Minister Gen Prem Tinsulanon and his party from Europe, that he did not know Thai Vice Consul Sihadet Chidawong in Chicago, who was arrested late last week for his involvement in heroin trade. A report from Chicago, however, said that Sihadet is a C-4 official of the Foreign Ministry's under secretary of state office. Arun revealed that he had also been informed about the arrest of Sihadet by the Narcotics Control Board, and he later reported this matter to Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila.

Asked if Sihadet would be called back for any action, Arun replied that the Foreign Ministry had allowed the U.S. authorities to arrest Sihadet regardless of his diplomatic immunity, which can also be nullified by the United States because the offense took place in its territory. Therefore, the U.S. law must be observed.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila told reporters upon his arrival at the airport yesterday morning that he had been informed about the arrest of the Thai consul and instructed the Thai consulate in Chicago to notify the U.S. Government that it can take legal actions according to the U.S. law in this case.

'NATION REVIEW' Editorial

BK030145 Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 3 May 82 p 4

[Editorial: "The Diplomatic Pouch: How Did Heroin Get In?"]

[Text] When the diplomat of a country is caught in flagrante delicto it is somewhat shameful to admit that fact, but we believe that the Thai Foreign Ministry has been correct in cooperating with the Chicago police and the American drug enforcement agency to permit the arrest of Vice Consul Sihadet Chindawong, who operated, according to the report, a drug ring in the Chicago area and who was obtaining high-grade heroin through the use of Diplomatic pouches. Thailand certainly salvages a lot of prestige in that the Thai Embassy in Washington did not holler about diplomatic privilege but quietly gave permission for the police to pick up Sihadet.

Normally every country picks its diplomats, to represent it abroad, according to a certain list of qualifications -- the list might differ from country to country, but the overall purpose is to project the best picture abroad. We also know that diplomatic personnel are used by certain countries for gathering intelligence -- everybody knows about the CIA,

the KGB, the M16 and numerous others who do not go by any name but try to be a faceless as possible. There are certain countries which primarily specialize in commercial and economic intelligence and, let us face it: The old days of diplomatic courtesy and agreements by shaking hands are gone. This does not mean that the gathering of intelligence, for whatever reasons, should be condoned, but it is a fact of life which every country has to live with. Recently there has been a spate of activity by the KGB in Southeast Asia and we all have learned to live with it, occasionally expelling some and trying to keep a watch on the suspicious.

But what Sihadet has done does not amount to the sort of activity that will call for mere condemnation and expulsion. What Sihadet and his ring have done, if the report is true, is just an ordinary, despicable crime for his personal benefit, something punishable under law in every country, and which sullies the fair face of Thailand. We do know that, however careful the screening is, rotten apples do turn up in the barrel and the sooner they are removed and punished exemplarily the better. We are glad the Thai Foreign Ministry saw the wisdom of it and we are also sure that it will come up with the exposure of all the details that are involved. Drug trafficking is a crime we loathe second only to rape and murder.

The question whether Sihadet is to be tried in the United States or Thailand, is not actually primary. The problem for both the Foreign Ministry and Thailand's Office of Narcotics Control Board is: Who put the heroin in the diplomatic pouches? Sihadet picked it up in Chicago, but somebody must have put it in the pouches. So it is just not a single rotten apple in the barrel, there is another one. This should be the primary question in the whole unsavoury episode. As a matter of fact Sihadet himself might opt to be tried and imprisoned in the United States, if he is guilty, because the sentences there are lighter and conditions in prison more tolerable. However, the other 'rotten apple' hasn't got such a choice.

CSO: 5300/2284

BARBADOS

DRUG OFFICIAL WARNS OF INCREASED USE AMONG YOUTH

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 15 Apr 82 p 2

[Text]

There is an increase in the use of drugs among the youth, especially at examination time, when statistics have shown that valium is very much used by students of the Cave Hill campus of the University of the West Indies.

This was stated by Mr. Lennox Prescod, Assistant Director of the Barbados Drug Service, during a recent panel discussion on "Drug Abuse, as It Affects the Youth." The discussion was organised by The Jaycettes Chapter.

He said that those students believed that they could not cope without some type of aid at this time of stress.

Mr. Lennox said that drugs could be legitimate or illegitimate and he said also that there was the abuse of both legal and illegal drugs.

He told the audience that the abuse of legalised drugs which includes overuse of anti-depressants for stress and such other conditions, was beginning to cause some concern among pharmacists.

He said that other drugs being abused were alcohol — the most abused, marijuana and cocaine.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Winfield Cummins spoke on marijuana and he described it as the most controversial at this time.

He showed that it had been in existence for a number of years and was once used as a form of anaesthetic when mixed with wine.

Mr. Cummins said that the fibre can be used to make hats and for ropes on ships. He said that the actual leaves can be smoked, used as a beverage or mixed and put into fish cakes and bread.

He told of the situation in Jamaica where marijuana was being tested for use in the cure of glaucoma — a condition of the eyes.

He said that research was being carried out on marijuana and so far some 61 chemicals had been found in the drug, some with good properties and some with bad.

Mr. Cummins said that research still had to be carried on before marijuana could be given "a clean bill of health."

The senior police official gave statistics on the growing number of cases being brought before the court for marijuana charges and pointed out that a person had to be caught using the female species of the plant to be charged.

He also spoke of the fines and jail sentences when marijuana was found in one's possession.

CSO: 5300/7546

MEXICO

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION IN DRUG CASES DISCUSSED

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 30 Mar 82 Sec B p 6

[Text] Arturo Cedillo, chief of the office in charge of investigations concerning narcotics in Laredo, stated: "I sincerely congratulate the Mexican federal authorities on the recent blow to the drug traffic dealt in the town of Nuevo Laredo."

According to the statement made by that official, despite the fact that arrests were made of persons residing in this town on charges of heroin trafficking, the investigations have been respected and, indeed, the cooperation is continuing between the two parallel offices, in order to keep attacking the harmful black market.

He added: "We are quite well aware that this ring has been operating on much higher levels, and as representatives involved in such a critical mission we are working in a highly respectful manner, but helping each other insofar as it is possible."

Commenting on the situation of this border insofar as the drug operations that are under way are concerned, Cedillo remarked: "Unfortunately, Nuevo Laredo and Laredo are serving as a lever or takeoff site leading to the United States for the czars of the drug traffic, and we might declare these two towns the victims of such operations."

Cedillo also made a parallel comparison of the aforementioned function as something germane to Mexico, because the product that was discovered was from South America, and the contact was in Mexico, so as to ship it from there quickly to the large cities of the United States.

Cedillo declared: "It is to be assumed that the organization which was partially caught must have been operating for some time, without the Mexican authorities investigating or at least speculating on the large volume which it had taken into the United States."

According to the chief of the Narcotics Office in Laredo, there is a bilateral coordination between his office and the federal office in Mexico; but it is obvious that, up until now, no intervention has been possible, until the investigations in Mexico have been completed.

He also added that it is possible that the one most implicated in this affair has been arrested, noting that everything is contingent on what is determined in the probes and procedures taking place in Mexico.

In conclusion, he emphasized the mutual respect that exists toward the work being done in Mexico, adding that he and his legal staff are ready to cooperate within the bounds of their official capacities.

2909

CSO: 5330/77

MEXICO

SIX-YEAR ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN REVIEWED, PRAISED

FL151254 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1330 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 14 Apr (NOTIMEX) — The Mexican Attorney General's Office should have eliminated 95 percent of the cultivation of marijuana before the end of the present administration, according to Deputy Attorney General Samuel Alba Leyva. The official, who is in charge of the standing campaign against narcotic traffic, also said that Mexico, formerly the springboard for "the drug mafia," has now become the country that applies the greatest resources to end this evil business.

During the first year of the present 6-year term, 269 kilograms of cocaine were seized and more than 23,000 marijuana fields and 47,000 poppy fields were destroyed. Now, almost at the end of this administration, only 14 kilos of cocaine have been seized and 14,000 marijuana and poppy fields have been destroyed in 1 year.

According to statistical data, from 1 December 1976 to 31 March 1982, 235,000 marijuana and poppy fields have been destroyed and 670 kilos of pure cocaine, thousands of tons of marijuana, hashish and seeds have been seized along with 50 million depressant and stimulant pills, plus 5,000 kilos of methaqualone.

With the "pilot plan," in which the army also participates, the Attorney General's Office has seized 8,000 weapons and 3,500 air, land and maritime vehicles, and has arrested 25,000 drug traffickers, 1,000 of whom were foreigners.

CSO: 5300/2281

MEXICO

INTERNATIONAL COCAINE TRAFFICKING RING DISBANDED

Connections Disclosed

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 27 Mar 82 Sec C p 4

[Text] A powerful ring of Colombian cocaine traffickers was broken up by the Federal Judicial Police and members of the Federal Security Office. The investigation began with the arrest of two South Americans in the city of Monterrey, individuals who had contacts in Laredo for taking the drugs to the capital of Texas and from there distributing them in the leading cities of that state.

Yesterday, during a press conference directed by the coordinator of agencies of the Federal Public Ministry in zone 11, Carlos Aguilar Garza, as well as the agent of the Federal Public Ministry, Ramon Guillermo Calzada Vejar, and the regional commander, Jose Siordia Jimenez, the announcement was made of the disbanding of a ring of cocaine traffickers in which several members of the customs guard of the first fiscal zone are implicated.

From the reports supplied by the federal officials, it was learned that the confiscated drugs are worth more than 25 million pesos, and were considered to be of a very high degree of purity by Comdr Siordia Jimenez. However, this cannot be ascertained until the chemical test results and those of the analysis have been submitted by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic.

Monterrey Contact

On 18 March, the Colombians Orlando Granados Barrera and Hugo Luis Hoyos Fernandez arrived in the city of Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, where they were to contact members of the customs guard, so as to be taken to this port, from which they would carry the cocaine to the United States.

In order to evade the vigilance of the Mexican narcotics officials, the two Colombians swallowed small latex bags each containing between 5 and 6 grams of the drug, which they would defecate once they were on Mexican territory.

Before this operation, the two South Americans contacted the American woman Jacqueline Jackaman Canavati, who came from Laredo, Texas, to Monterrey, to purchase a sample of the drugs weighing approximately 3 grams, for which she paid 5,000 pesos.

Jacqueline was accompanied by a woman of Spanish nationality, who when questioned by the federal police said that her name was Maritza Perez Huerta.

Both Jacqueline Jackaman and the two Colombians were the first to be captured by agents from the Federal Security Office detailed to Monterrey; and they were placed at the disposal of the Federal Public Ministry agent, Ramon Guillermo Calzada Vejar, for the pertinent interrogations.

When the federal prosecutor received the case, he requested the aid of the regional commander, Siordia Jimenez, who, leading his group, began the intensive investigations and succeeded in capturing the rest of the ring, and the probe ended on 22 March.

Laredo Contact

After a thorough investigation, the federal agents in this town managed to capture, first, Alfredo Jackaman Botarsi, a native of Laredo, Texas, who, according to the Federal Police reports, was responsible for taking the South Americans to the United States and leading them to the organization's key locations.

He, in turn, after being questioned, mentioned several persons who were also Colombians implicated in the case; whereupon an arrest was made of Diego Alfonso Diaz Vinazco who, together with the organization's right-hand man, Carlos Rivero Betancourt, was responsible for receiving the cocaine in this town.

The latter pair had come from San Antonio, Texas, to take the cocaine to that location, from which, when cut, it would be distributed in Austin, Houston and Miami.

When Diego Diaz was arrested, he turned over half a kilogram of pure cocaine which he had concealed in the residence of Alma Gloria Roldan Robles, a resident of this town.

The federal officials also reported that, in this town, an arrest was made of Carlos Emilio Jackaman Saenz, alias "El Cocoy," who had arranged the cocaine purchase with Carlos Rivero and Diego Diaz Vinazco.

At the time of the arrest of the two aforementioned subjects, they were with the Colombian Hernando Echeverri Molina, who, upon being questioned, claimed to have been engaged in transporting the cocaine from Colombia to this town.

Customs Officials Involved in the Cocaine Traffic

According to Carlos Aguilar Garza, as well as the federal prosecutor, Ramon Guillermo Calzada and the zone 11 commander, Jose Siordia Jimenez, the investigations conducted to locate the members of the drug trafficking ring revealed the fact that several members of the customs guard were involved in the matter.

They said that one of those arrested and under investigation thus far is Comdr Reynaldo Hernandez Pedraza, who is closely associated with the drug traffic as a contact in this town.

The informants claimed that the customs officials had been used by the Colombians to evade the immigration authorities; because they contacted the guards and went to Monterrey, from which they were accompanied by the "mules."

When they reached the checkpoint, the immigration officials did not suspect anything, because a guard would take charge of the situation.

It was also reported that several inspectors and guards are fugitives from justice, having left their jobs as soon as they learned what had happened.

Orders To Kill Rivals

The Colombians who were arrested by the Federal Judicial Police agents said in their statements to the prosecutor that there were rival trafficking rings in San Antonio which, in turn, were fighting to obtain a bigger market among the Texas cocaine addicts.

They also claimed that they had orders from the ringleaders to locate the rivals and eliminate them, or report them to the American narcotics group, so as thereby to overcome them and make better headway in the sale of cocaine.

In this connection, the coordinator of the agencies of the Federal Public Ministry, Carlos Aguilar Garza, said that two rings of Colombian traffickers had been discovered, which were operating by using this border port as a bridge, but that, unfortunately, only one could be broken up.

Six Months of Cocaine Trafficking

Once the agency of the Federal Public Ministry completes the preliminary penal investigation of those in custody, they will be turned over to the district court where the legal status of each of them will be decided.

It was said that many years of imprisonment are awaiting them, because, according to their statements, they have been engaged in this illegal business for over 6 months, having earned millions of dollars through the sale of drugs on the United States market.

It was said, tentatively, that 1 kilogram of already cut cocaine is worth \$100,000; and hence it was calculated that the drugs which the Colombians had, upon being placed on the underworld market, would command a price in excess of 25 million pesos.

More Arrests Made

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 28 Mar 82 Sec C p 4

[Text] The drugs seized by Federal Judicial Police agents from a ring of South American traffickers with contacts in Mexico and the United States was described by the experts in the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic as being Colombian cocaine with a high degree of purity.

This information was released yesterday, Saturday, by the Federal Public Ministry agent, Ramon Guillermo Calzada Vejar, who added that the pertinent questioning of each one of those arrested has already begun.

The prosecutor said that probably by tomorrow, or Tuesday at the latest, all the statements will be completed and based upon their liability, they will be turned over to the district court for continuation of the penal process to which they are subject.

Many Fugitives

Despite the fact that as soon as the Federal Judicial Police agents received orders to investigate the drug trafficking being carried out by a powerful ring of Colombians they hastened to make several captures, many of those responsible managed to flee, and to date they have not been located by the agents in charge of the investigation.

According to statements made by the federal officials, several members of the customs guard fled, because they were implicated in the drug smuggling; but it was claimed that they will be strenuously hunted until they are found, so that they may be tried for drug trafficking.

In this connection it was said that Comdr Reynaldo Hernandez Pedraza has been participating in the Colombian cocaine trafficking, because it was identified by the South Americans as an active contact in this town.

But it will not be until tomorrow, Monday, that the legal responsibility of the customs commander in this unlawful business is announced.

Others Arrested

The federal officials also said that, in addition to the eight persons originally captured, six more individuals have been arrested, both in this town and in the city of Monterrey.

However, the latter were only held for questioning concerning their collaboration with the traffickers, although it was on a small scale and they had no contact with the drugs.

Participation of the U.S. Narcotics Department

Upon the capture of the Colombians Carlos Rivero Betancourt (the organization's right-hand man), Orlando Granados Barrera, Diego Alfonso Diaz Velasco, Hugo Luis Hoyos Fernandez and Hernando Echeverria Molina, the United States federal authorities undertook a roundup in the entire state of Texas in order to capture the other contacts of the organization scattered in the United States.

Insofar as the Mexican police investigations are concerned, they are nearly finished, and all that remains to be done is to find the fugitive customs guards; and, therefore, the completion of the probe will now be carried out by the American police, to capture the rest of the ring not located in Nuevo Laredo or Monterrey.

It was also learned that several suspicious individuals from Laredo, Texas, associated with the Jackaman Canavatis, are being investigated by the narcotics agents, because they may be implicated in the Colombian trafficking ring.

Eleven Held for Trial

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 31 Mar 82 Sec C p 4

[Text] Eleven persons belonging to the powerful Colombian cocaine trafficking ring who were arrested recently by the Federal Judicial Police were turned over to the district court upon being found presumably guilty of committing crimes against health; while Jacqueline Jackaman Canavati and Maria Isabel Perez Huertas were released because no evidence was found against them to warrant trying them.

This information was provided yesterday by Ramon Guillermo Calzada Vejar, investigative agent of the Federal Public Ministry, who added that, in preliminary penal investigation 118/982, penal action was brought against the Colombians Orlando Granados Barrera, Hugo Luis Hoyos Fernandez, Diego Alonso Diaz Vinazco, Carlos Alberto Rivero Betancourt and Hernando Echeverri Molina.

Also held for trial for crimes against health were Alma Gloria Roldan Robles, Carlos Emilio Jackaman Saenz, Mario Vedia Flores, Alfredo Jackaman Batarse, customs guard Armando Santos Garcia and Commander Reynaldo Hernandez Pedraza.

Serious Crimes

The charges made by the federal prosecutor against the members of the Colombian cocaine trafficking ring are said to be very serious, and it is claimed that many years in jail await each one of the accused.

In preliminary penal investigation 118/982, turned over to the district court by the prosecutor, Calzada Vejar, the presumed guilt of the aforementioned individuals for crimes against health in various degrees was established.

As for Orlando Granados Barrera and Hugo Luis Hoyos Fernandez (the prosecutor stated), they were held for trial on charges of importing, possession, trafficking and transportation of cocaine.

Diego Alonso Diaz Vinazco, Carlos Alberto Rivero Betancourt and Hernando Echeverri Molina were turned over to the federal judge on charges of importing, possession, trafficking, transportation and exporting of Colombian cocaine.

Alma Gloria Roldan Robles, a native of this town, was turned over to the judge for her presumed guilt in committing crimes against health in the degrees of possession, trafficking, transportation and exporting of cocaine.

Carlos Emilio Jackaman Saenz was remanded for his presumed guilt in the degrees of possession, trafficking and exporting, and Mario Vedia Flores, in the degrees of transportation and exporting of cocaine; because, according to the investigations, the latter went to the city of Monterrey for the "mules" Granados Barrera and Hoyos Fernandez, and took them illegally to Laredo, Texas.

The members of the customs guard were remanded to the federal judge for their presumed guilt in committing crimes against health in the degree of cocaine transportation. They are Reynaldo Hernandez Pedraza and Armando Santos Garcia, in addition to the American, Alfredo Jackaman Batarse.

Crimes Ruled Out

At the beginning, the investigations conducted by the Federal Judicial Police were also aimed at disclosing various crimes which had been attributed to the ring of coca traffickers; but these suspicions were ruled out by the authorities when the subjects under arrest were interrogated.

The prosecutor claimed that the accused consistently stated that they had entered the country on 18 March, and hence it was impossible to believe that they had committed any crime before that date.

Among the murders that the main ringleaders were presumed to have committed was that on 7 December of last year, which took place in the Muguerza Hospital in Monterrey, where an unidentified person riddled a drug trafficker with bullets.

Probe Ends

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 2 Apr 82 Sec C p 4

[Text] Today, an announcement will be made of the decision of the third district judge, Ricardo Rodriguez Villarreal, regarding the 11 persons who were held for trial owing to their presumed guilt in committing crimes against health in the various degrees of cocaine trafficking.

The constitutional period of 72 hours will terminate today, and the federal judge will decide on the legal status of the five Colombians and other persons who were arrested by Federal Police agents for their presumed guilt of cocaine trafficking.

From the outset, it was claimed that the ones who will have the most difficulty in extricating themselves from this problem are the Colombians Orlando Granados and Hugo Luis Hoyos, who were the first to be arrested with the drugs in their possession.

The same fate awaits their fellow countrymen Alonso Diaz Vinazco, Alberto Rivero Betancourt and Hernando Echeverri Molina; because the latter were held for trial by the federal prosecutor for their presumed guilt of crimes against health in the degrees of importing, possession, trafficking, transportation and exporting of cocaine.

This will end an arduous investigation which lasted several days, on the part of federal agents and narcotics officials of the United States, whereby it was learned that several traffickers who belonged to this ring have now been located.

2909
CSO: 5330/77

MEXICO

TRAFFICKING RINGLEADER CAPTURED IN OAXACA

Oaxaca de Juarez EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 23 Mar 82 Sec B p 4

[Text] Members of the Cuicatlan group of the crime prevention police have put an end to the dreaded gangster and drug trafficker, Baldemar Cid, alias "El Vilmar," head of the ring which had been operating in settlements of the Oaxaca mountain ravine.

Continuing the investigations, the police were able to locate the whereabouts of this criminal, who has a black record of crime, having been head of a criminal organization of which Felipe Carrera Quintero, a gangster captured by the Judicial Police in the town of Chiquihutlan, Cuicatlan, was a member.

It was found that he was receiving protection from the Public Ministry agent in Cuicatlan, Porfirio Felipe Echeverria Zarate, as well as from Pedro Rolando Rodriguez Quero, who served as joint judge of the first instance in the same judicial district.

It was the judge himself who obtained a federal pardon for him so that the criminal was released when he was arrested in November of the year before last.

When they were required to report to the district judge of this town on the criminal record of Baldemar Cid, both the Public Ministry agent, Echeverria Zarate, and Judge Rodriguez Quero overlooked the fact that a warrant had been issued for the capture of this criminal in penal case No 19/979, for the crimes of assault, robbery, arson and property damage to Francisco Navarrete and others.

According to the investigation made by the reporter, Baldemar Cid is a consummate gangster, purchaser of stolen livestock and drug trafficker. His accomplices were members of the Trovamala family of Siete Cerros Teutila, who identified him as head of the ring.

There are reports which show that Marino Mendoza, Azael Munoz Rodriguez and Constantino Cervantes Ruvinos are members of Baldemar Cid's ring, but the police are working to gather evidence in connection with their criminal activity and to put them in jail.



For a long time, he spread terror and death in settlements of the Oaxaca ravine. Now, Baldemar Cid (in the photo) is in jail, accused of assault, robbery and damage to the property of another. He is head of a criminal organization whose members have received protection from the Public Ministry agent, Porfirio Felipe Echeverria Zarate, and from Judge Pedro Rolando Rodriguez Quero.

2909

CSO: 5330/77

MEXICO

TORTURE OF CAPTURED DRUG TRAFFICKERS DENIED

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 2 Apr 82 Sec D p 7

[Text] Medical certificates issued by Dr Rafael Lozano, assigned to the coordinator's office in the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, and Dr Alfredo Garcia Trevino, of the Social Rehabilitation Center [CERESO], associated with the investigation concerning the Colombian drug traffickers, and the Laredo and Nuevo Laredo residents implicated therein, state that they showed no signs of violence on their bodies when they were brought before the Federal Public Ministry or upon their entry into the CERESO. However, there are other documents signed by private physicians using stationery from the prison infirmary attesting to violence.

In their respective statements to the third district judges, the accused denied having any participation in a crime against health in its various degrees, and explained that, if they had admitted guilt at first it was "because they subjected us to heavy pressure and physical torture."

It was announced in the aforementioned court that the legal status of those being held will be decided sometime this morning, upon the expiration of the constitutional period.

The head of the CERESO, Hector Garcia Trevino, remarked that he was unaware that any private doctors had used stationery from that institution, and immediately ordered all of it brought to the administration; adding that, when he received the accused, only one of them had an inflamed eye, claiming that "he was all right" and not complaining of any physical torture that he may have been given.

It was announced in the district court that it will not be until the trial is underway that personal encounters will take place and the captors will be called to account for the differences existing in the statements made by those in custody.

2909
CSO: 5330/76

MEXICO

INCINERATION OF COLOMBIAN MARIHUANA REPORTED

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 21 Mar 82 Sec B pp 1, 2

[Text] Yesterday, at kilometer 17 of the Pan-American Highway. 5.5 tons of marihuana were burned as part of this town's antidrug operation.

The event was witnessed by the Federal Public Ministry agent, Norberto Salinas Navarrete and the second district judge, Ismael Ruiz, who certified the incineration of the drugs.

At exactly 1510 hours in the afternoon, personnel from the Federal Judicial Police and members of the firefighting corps unloaded 310 bags which contained the drugs that had been brought from Barranquilla, Colombia.

The marihuana was seized a few days ago from two Americans and a Panamanian, who are being held by the authorities for the crime of drug smuggling.

Upon being approached, Ismael Ruiz, the second district judge, stated that steps had been taken to incinerate the drugs because of the lack of suitable space for storing them over an indefinite period of time; and hence the most appropriate action was to burn them.

After the drugs had been incinerated, the firefighting crops undertook the task of destroying the remains of the drugs which had not been entirely consumed by the fire, to avoid "temptation" on the part of spectators who had stood by to observe the burning of the drugs.

2909

CSO: 5330/76

MEXICO

TRAFFICKERS CAPTURED WITH HEROIN FROM GUERRERO

Arrests Announced

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 26 Mar 82 Sec B p 7

[Text] Federal Judicial Police forces dealt a heavy blow to the drug traffic upon arresting several persons and also seizing a moderate amount of marihuana and heroin.

The coordinator of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, Carlos Aguilar, announced the arrest of Roman Perez Jara and Cleotilde Roman Salgado, from whom 150 grams of very pure heroin, of sufficient quality to be doubled or tripled, were seized.

In her statements, Cleotilde Roman Salgado said that she had brought the drugs from Iguala, Guerrero; and they are presumed to be merely a sample, to be used for making a larger transaction.

When the investigation was continued, an arrest was made of Candido Salgado Diaz, an individual who claimed that the heroin was owned by him, disclosing that Roman Perez Jara and Rodrigo Guzman Barragan had supplied it in Tlaxtepec, Guerrero.

The same police forces arrested Luis de Jesus Vazquez Rodriguez on the highway between Mexico City and Laredo, near this port, as he was riding in a bus of the "White Star" line, with a suitcase containing about 4 kilograms of marihuana.

Jailing Ordered

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 3 Apr 82 Sec B p 5

[Text] Roman Perez Jara, Cleotilde Roman Salgado and Candido Salgado Diaz made their preliminary statement in the second district court; and, subsequently, an order was issued for their official imprisonment as persons presumed guilty of a crime against health in the degree of heroin trafficking, possession and transportation.

They were informed yesterday, in the Social Rehabilitation Center, of the decision of the second district judge, Carlos Chowell Cepeda, upon the expiration of the constitutional period.



Roman Perez Jara, Cleotilde Roman Salgado and Candido Salgado Diaz were captured by Federal Judicial Police forces with 150 grams of pure heroin in their possession which they had brought from Tlacotepec in the state of Guerrero and were carrying as a sample in order to make a larger transaction.

Perez Jara and Cleotilde were arrested by Federal Judicial Police forces with 150 grams of heroin in their possession which was presumably a sample for a larger transaction.

Later arrested was Candido Salgado Diaz, who claimed that he owned the heroin and had purchased it from Perez Jara and another subject named Rodrigo Guzman Barragan, in a town in the state of Oaxaca.

In connection with this case, the police said that they were extending their investigation to other parts of the country in order to find other criminals distributing hard drugs with whom those under arrest had some connection.

2909
CSO: 5330/76

MEXICO

DRUGS FROM PERU SEIZED AT AIRPORT

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 7 Apr 82 Sec A p 3

[Text] Mexico City, 6 April (OEM)--A large amount of contraband cocaine and LSD acid worth over 200 million pesos was seized by Federal Judicial Police agents at the Mexico City international airport, and the American drug trafficker, Hamor James Rios, was also captured as he arrived from Caracas, Venezuela.

Gen Raul Mendiola Cerecero, director of the Federal Judicial Police, stated that this individual was a member of the same international drug trafficking ring which was caught 2 weeks ago, also at the Mexico City airport, with two false-bottomed suitcases in which 10 kilograms of cocaine were concealed.

On that occasion, the drug trafficker was not apprehended, because when he realized that he had been discovered, he chose to remain in Lima, Peru.

The capture of James Rios took place this morning, when he arrived on Aeromexico flight 420 from Caracas, Venezuela.

Upon being through the international customs inspection, the American appeared visibly nervous, and therefore the federal agents proceeded to search him. It was then that they discovered that, in a suitcase and a handbag, both with false bottoms, he was carrying 6 kilograms and 300 grams of cocaine, as well as 22 doses of LSD, which he was taking to Houston, Texas, in the United States.

When questioned by the police, the subject in custody said that, a week ago, in Austin, Texas, he had met James Sexton, who proposed that he travel to Peru in order to make the shipment to the United States. Since the pay was good, he accepted the job.

For this reason, he went to Lima, Peru, where he met a contact, named Maich, who turned over the drugs to him.

Since James Sexton had been informed that there were two drug detector dogs at the airport in Lima, Peru, he decided to travel by highway transportation to Chile and Venezuela, and then boarded a plane to Mexico City, so as to avoid being detected by the dogs. However, he was captured in this city.

2909

CSO: 5330/77

MEXICO

BRIEFS

WANTED TRAFFICKER CAPTURED---It has been reported that yesterday morning the Federal Judicial Police arrested an individual named Aureliano Caballero Salazar, thereby complying with a warrant for his recapture issued by the district judge for crimes against health. On the basis of an official memorandum which the prison administration has in its possession, the subject under arrest was placed at the disposal of the federal judge. Aureliano Salazar entered the municipal public jail at about 1300 hours, 2 hours after he had been arrested by Federal Judicial Police agents under the orders of Comdr Benito Estrada Villagomez. The federal agents themselves took the individual in custody to the municipal jail, placing him at the disposal of the fourth district judge, who was the one who had issued the warrant for recapture, accusing him of crimes against health. Moreover, the Federal Judicial Police commander told EL BRAVO yesterday that he and his agents having been carrying out their vigilance and investigation work concerning federal crimes. He stressed that strict surveillance is being kept in order to impede, insofar as possible, the activity of drug traffickers who have made this region their favorite spot for smuggling drugs to the United States. Fortunately, as a result of effort this illegal activity has been declining, but nevertheless it will be very difficult to eradicate it completely at any time. [Text] [H. Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 30 Mar 82 Sec A p 10] 2909

CSO: 5330/77

PERU

STATE ENTERPRISE TO CONTROL COCA

PY162250 Paris ADP in Spanish 1744 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Text] Lima, 6 Mar (AFP)--The Peruvian Government today established new powers for the State National Coca Enterprise which has a monopoly of the domestic and foreign trade in coca and its byproducts (cocaine), and its processing as well.

The social statute just issued by the government, establishes that the enterprises must also develop the processing of coca leaves and will have sole responsibility for the cultivation as soon as the current plantations are eradicated, to the extent justified by demand.

The enterprise must also promote the social, cultural and technical development of its personnel; cooperate in the rural development of zones where the programs of eradication of plantations and crop substitution are carried out; and finally, establish branch offices throughout the country or abroad.

The state enterprise--whose social capital amounts to 10 billion soles (\$18 million)--must also keep updated records of the coca farms and producers and indicate those farms whose tenants do not comply with the requirement to sell all their crop to that enterprise.

The enterprise will also control the harvesting, drying and transportation of the leaves so that they may not be used for illegal purposes. It will also receive the coca seized from drug trafficking and will ask the Interior Ministry for the confiscated cocaine, to be used in industries or for exports.

Finally, the enterprise will also carry out research and testing activities on the processing of the coca, and will punish those who violate the legal dispositions in dealing with this product.

CSO: 5300/2283

PERU

BRIEFS

NARCOTICS SEIZURE--Investigative police have captured two drug traffickers and seized 33 kg of cocaine. The seizure took place at the airport just before the men were to take a Venezuelan jet headed for Bogota. The detainees said their names were Luis Antonio Castillo Guzman, 52, painter, and Pedro Daniel Flores Herrera, 60. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 20 Feb 82 p A-10 PY]

DRUGS SEIZED--Civil guard personnel from the city of Tingo Maria have dismantled a highly sophisticated laboratory for cocaine processing in the jungle of Aucayacu, where 5.5 kg of cocaine paste and five vehicles were seized. Andres Leon Noriega, Mauro Leon Noriega, Cesar Mauricio Mesias, Yonel Carrion Mego and Francisco Natividad Aparicio were reported arrested. [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 20 Feb 82 p 6 PY]

DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--The police have carried out operations against drug traffickers in Tumbes. The police have arrested Italo Aguilar Feijoo with 2.6 kg of cocaine base along with Melquiades Munoz Oyola and Gloria del Socorro Echevarria Araujo, a Colombian citizen, who was found with 1.5 kg of cocaine base. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 7 Mar 82 p A-18 PY]

CSO: 5300/2283

LIBERIA

BRIEFS

MARIHUANA BURNED--Six suitcases of marijuana, estimated at \$75,000 was at the weekend burned at the Defense Ministry on Benson Street in Monrovia. The drug was abandoned by some unknown passengers at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) on a Ghana Airways flight on March 20, while the second consignment was brought on a Nigeria Airways flight on March 27 this year. Making remarks at the burning site Saturday morning, Brig./Gen. Robert G. Saye, who deputized for the Chief of Staff, Lt./Gen. Henry S. Dubar, called on security forces at the RIA to be more vigilant in tracking down criminals to minimize the smuggling of dangerous drugs into the country. [Text] [Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 5 Apr 82 p 10]

CSO: 5300/5723

DENMARK

DANE NAMED NORDIC POLICE DRUGS REPRESENTATIVE TO SOUTH AMERICA

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 20 Apr 82 p 3

[Article by Anders Wiig]

[Text] Ivar Boye, commissioner of police, will, today, recommend to the Ministry of Justice that a Danish detective inspector be posted at Lima in Peru, from where a courier has just been arrested, carrying 5.5 kilos of cocaine. At the same time, it has been decided who will represent the police authorities of the Nordic countries as liaison officer with the West German Criminal Investigation Department at Wiesbaden.

As far as BERLINGSKE TIDENDE has been able to ascertain, it will be Mogens Lundh, 37, detective inspector of the Copenhagen Narcotics Police. The police authorities of the Nordic countries as well as the West German police authorities have high hopes of this expansion of the close cooperation in the very area of combating drugs abuse. Mogens Lundh will be in charge of the exchange of information and will create contacts among the police authorities of the countries involved beyond the contacts already existing at the Interpol level. The day-to-day chief of Interpol in Denmark, Harry Thomsen, detective superintendent, and Arne Baum, deputy commissioner of police, have visited Wiesbaden in connection with the establishment of the new arrangement.

This arrangement was decided upon at the Nordic level in 1981. At the same time, it was agreed that Denmark would examine the need for, as well as the feasibility of, stationing a Danish police officer as the Nordic contact man in South America, from where large quantities of cocaine are smuggled into the Nordic countries.

Henning Dahlfeldt, deputy chief constable, and H. P. Sørensen, detective inspector, have visited Lima, the capital of Peru, in connection with this task. They had meetings with both the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Justice of Peru and carried on extremely positive negotiations with the chiefs of the local police authorities. Subsequently, Ivar Boye, commissioner of police, has decided to ask the Minister of Justice to arrange all of the formalities with a view to sending a Danish criminal police officer to Lima.

"I find it a sensible arrangement, in this way, to get to know the South American continent and to get to follow the cocaine problems more or less from the moment they emerge," says Ivar Boye, commissioner of police.

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CSO: 5300/2172

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DENMARK

POLICE IN PROVINCES ESTABLISH SEPARATE DRUGS DIVISIONS

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 23 Apr 82 p 3

[Text] The intensified hunt for narcotics dealers and narcotics smugglers will also lead to nine appointments and promotions of police chiefs both in Copenhagen and in the provinces. The forthcoming appointments of chiefs of police are also a sign that the drugs police must have a more independent position within the criminal police forces of the provinces. In Copenhagen, the criminal investigation department has, for several years, had an independent drugs division.

That will now also be the case at Århus where a detective superintendent and a deputy detective superintendent will be appointed chiefs, while deputy detective superintendents will be appointed at the Aalborg and Odense criminal investigation departments. In Copenhagen, the deputy chief of the Drugs Division will be promoted from police superintendent of the 25th class--the same as deputy superintendents--to the 31st class, while still another superintendent will be appointed. Bent Hansen will, no doubt, remain deputy chief. The chief of the Trouble Spotters, Ove Nielsen, police superintendent of the 25th class, will be promoted to the 31st class and will get a deputy superintendent as his deputy chief.

Finally, a narcotics superintendent of police will be appointed within the Flying Squad of the National Bureau of Investigation, which assists the smaller police districts in the provinces and coordinates the narcotics detection work in the provinces. This is expected to be Preben Darkner, detective superintendent, who will also be promoted to the much-coveted 31st class.

The forces of the larger police districts and the Flying Squad have already been increased by well over 50 officers with a view to intensifying the narcotics detection work. This, however, has been done for the time being through transfers of staff from other task forces. The expansion of the police force, foreshadowed by Minister of Justice Ole Espersen, may only be carried through over a number of years. At the same time, an assistance arrangement has been carried through between the Copenhagen police department and the so-called outer-ring police departments, and grants have been made for additional technical equipment, such as cars and surveillance equipment.

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CSO: 5300/2172

DENMARK

BRIEFS

COPENHAGEN DRUGS GANGS BROKEN--In two big police actions in Copenhagen last Wednesday and Thursday, the narcotics police arrested 15 people who have been charged with smuggling of and traffic in narcotics. In connection with one of the cases, a man from Helsingborg [SWEDEN] has, furthermore, been arrested. The arrests last Wednesday followed a very intensive cooperation among the Scandinavian police authorities. For 3 months, the narcotics police department in Copenhagen has had eight officers engaged in the breaking of a gang which, under the leadership of Finns, smuggled amphetamines into the country and sold them here. The police got on the track of the gang at the end of 1981, and when it turned out that the gang also operated in Sweden and Norway, the Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian police authorities started cooperating on the case. It soon appeared that Finnish citizens played a decisive role in the case, and the gang was, therefore, given the name of "the Finnish Gang." The inter-Scandinavian police cooperation was expanded to include Finland as well. Last Wednesday morning, the police struck at a number of addresses at Nørrebro in Copenhagen. One Finn and four Danes were arrested. At the same time, the police at Helsingborg arrested still another Finn in the same case. At the police action at Nørrebro, the police found several kilos of amphetamines. The police has declined to state the quantity found since the case is being heard in camera. The persons arrested were yesterday sentenced to 25 days' imprisonment by the judge on duty. Last Thursday morning, in another police action, the narcotics police cracked down on a Copenhagen hashish gang. Nine people were arrested. Last night, the case was still at the stage of interrogation. [Text] [Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 23 Apr 82 p 3] 7262

COCAINE SEIZED AT AIRPORT--A total of 5.5 kilos of cocaine, which--if sold to drug addicts in Denmark--would have fetched nearly 25 million kroner, have been seized by customs officers at Kastrup Airport. A 26-year-old Italian arriving by plane from London last Sunday night tried to smuggle the cocaine into the country. He was arrested in a routine check when passing through customs from the arrival hall. He was yesterday imprisoned for 2 weeks. During an interrogation in the narcotics department of the Copenhagen police headquarters, the Italian said that he had purchased the cocaine at Lima in Peru for 40,000 dollars. He said that he had travelled from Rome to Peru to purchase the dangerous drug. On his way back, he had flown first to Rio in Brazil, from there to Lisbon and on to London, and everything went well until the customs officers at Kastrup asked to check the two elegant handbags of the Italian. After the preliminary interrogations, the narcotics police are inclined to believe that the cocaine was to be taken to Rome. It is true that the Italian did not have a ticket to any other destination, but, during the investigation, he mentioned that he was to travel on by train. If the cocaine, or part of it, would have been sold in Copenhagen, the street price is at least 1,000 kroner per gram, says Bent Hansen, detective superintendent of the narcotics department. The cocaine seized has a strength of 90 percent. If the 5.5 kilos which were seized are diluted to a strength of 20 percent, which is the usual strength, the quantity will fetch approximately 25 million kroner. [Text] [Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 20 Apr 82 p 1] 7262

ITALY

FOREIGN UNDERSECRETARY PROPOSAL FOR HALTING DRUG TRAFFIC

Rome IL TEMPO in Italian 3 Apr 82 p 17

[Text]

Why is it that here in Italy, despite the unquestioned success the forces of law are claiming in this area, drugs are still claiming new converts?

This and other hard questions were raised at a press conference called by the Foreign Undersecretary, the Hon Mr Costa, where he presented a voluminous file of data on this burning issue.

In his press release, Undersecretary Costa lists a series of basic reasons why Italy has become a frightening center for the traffic -- not to mention the consumption -- of narcotics. He lists eight such reasons, the most significant of which are, in our view, the first (more widespread ties between organized crime, the camorra and the mafia, and the drug traffic), and the last (the large numbers of Italian citizens who -- albeit for only short periods -- leave Italy for the East to buy cheap opium or opium derivatives for their own use as well as for third parties). These "drug-buy commuters" number at least 20,000.

We shall skip over the other six reasons because, since they are tied in with objectively insoluble problems (Italy's central location in the Mediterranean, its very long coastline, etc.), and hence none of the problem can fairly be laid at the door of either the legislature or of the authorities responsible for prevention and repression of the phenomenon.

The other two points, however, deserve more thoughtful consideration. Here something can and must be done, if we are to stop the fearful toll of drug-related deaths (237 in 1981) in our country from mounting still higher.

As for the first point, obviously steps must be taken to "reclaim" Italian society on both the moral and behavioral levels: the staggering number of murders in Sicily and Campania that crowd the front pages and TV screens is linked either directly or indirectly with the drug traffic. One need only reflect on the fact that no fewer than

10,000 people were indicted for dealing, while the number of users, according to Costa's file, must be at least 100,000. Here are some more of the figures Costa quoted: in 1980, six heroin-producing laboratories were discovered; 200 kilos of heroin were seized (as against 85 kilos in 1979), which is almost as much as was seized in the entire United States, as well as 267 kilos of morphia (1980) and 78 kilos of cocaine (1981).

On Costa's last count, the State can and must do more -- and do it better: it would suffice to keep a close eye on the more than 20,000 Italian citizens who yearly visit the drug traffic's "hot zones." We need, says Costa, more rigorous intervention in the area of issuing (or withdrawing) passports. To stop the traffic in drugs "at its origins," Costa advocates a network of Italian "James Bonds" in the countries where the shipments start for Italy: Southeast Asia first of all, followed by the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean; and finally on the Andean slopes of Latin America.

Reportedly working on this project right now are the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Health, and Finance. The hope is that anti-drug offices staffed by expert agents will be opened and supported by embassies and consulates in some 20 countries: the ones where most of the opium, coca, and cannabis is grown. The model would be the highly efficient DEA in the United States. Missing, as usual, is adequate funding. To start with, Costa concluded, the operation will be confined to eight or ten countries -- the "hottest" ones.

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SWEDEN

GANG SMUGGLED HEROIN, USED FUNDS TO AID ARMENIAN MOVEMENT

'Shoemaker' Gang Indicted

Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 18 Mar 82 p 6

[Article by Sune Olsson]

[Text] The two men closest to the leader of the so-called shoemaker gang were indicted on Wednesday. The gang is considered to be the most dangerous drug ring uncovered in Sweden.

The wife of one of the men was indicted at the same time by county public prosecutor Jerry Martinger. All three are Lebanese nationals of Armenian descent. Only one of the men is himself a user of heroin, which was the gang's specialty.

A number of indictments will follow successively; of the main figure who is a shoemaker in Sollentuna and a Syrian of Armenian descent, of another few of the key figures immediately surrounding him and of a large number of collaborators. About 40 persons have been arrested; 70-80, or wherever it ends, are suspects. Some people are still known only by their first names, or described by their nationality.

More Than 6.5 Kilograms

During 1980 and 1981 the three who were now indicted alone or with the help of others illegally brought in and distributed more than 6.5 kilograms of heroin with a market value of approximately 6 million kronor. Couriers and recipients made big profits. There are cases in which a single trip brought in 70,000 kronor net, when the purchaser in Sweden himself went to Lebanon, where the major part of the heroin came from, as a courier.

In most cases the narcotics were then delivered to the shoemaker in Sollentuna and he in turn sold them to Swedish dealers and drug addicts. Depending on the quantity of drugs bought, the prices were then 900-1,000 kronor per gram. A heroin shipment, which in Lebanon cost a few tens of thousands of kronor, in Sweden became perhaps half a million.

Jerry Martinger thinks the whole gang of about 80 people may have smuggled drugs worth very large sums:

"It is not impossible that in the last 10 years they may have brought in drugs worth several hundred million kronor to Sweden," he says to SVENSKA DAGBLADET.

Specially Altered Shoes

The current indictment concerns two years, 1980 and 1981, but, as was said before, there are ramifications which are still under investigation and there is reason to believe that the drug ring has sold heroin in Sweden since 1978. Much indicates that the shoemaker gang sold several tens of kilograms of heroin in Sweden and as a result made a profit of many millions. Money, which then in all probability was smuggled out of Sweden.

The profession of the leader of the drug ring--one of the persons now indicted is also a shoemaker--has not been without importance. Some of the heroin literally walked into the country right under the noses of inspectors at airports and customs stations in Scania. The drugs were found between the soles and in the heels of professionally altered shoes.

This was the case, for example, when a young woman came to Sweden from Austria. She had 325 grams of heroin in the shoes. But bags with false bottoms, cigarettes and cartons lined with plastic were often also used for transportation. The couriers usually chose airplanes or trains. Conspicuous cars are entirely absent from the picture.

The sellers in Lebanon were usually acquaintances of the gang's couriers or persons whom they got to know through relatives or friends in Lebanon. A common feature is the Armenian descent. This also applies to persons of other nationalities, including the woman who came from Austria and her husband.

Funded Armenian Liberation Movement

Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 18 Mar 82 p 6

[Article by Sune Olsson]

[Text] No one knows with certainty today where the shoemaker gang's millions are. The police suspect, however, that the money was used to finance the Armenian liberation movement.

The police know that the money was largely smuggled out of Sweden and placed in Swiss banks. From there, transfers were made to the United States, among other places.

The police have found statements of account showing such transactions. Once, half a million was transferred to the United States without any problem. Another time one of the gang's suppliers himself went to Stockholm as a courier. The police were interested in him and he did not dare leave the country with his money, 300,000 kronor. The money was then sent to him through a Swiss bank to a bank in Los Angeles, where he had gone.

It has been established that in certain areas of the Los Angeles region Armenians have invested in gasoline stations and restaurants, among other things. And to an extent which can be described as conspicuous.

This is where the Lebanese drug dealer went, and this is where he was paid by a poor shoemaker in Sollentuna, who makes such a scant living that he is entitled to welfare payments.

The shoemaker is not alone. No excesses can be traced to anyone in the gang. Most do not even own a car. There are no clubs in the picture. Most of those who had permanent residence in Sweden tried to earn a living by working.

Suspicious'

There are as yet unconfirmed suspicions that the drug trade has been a way to finance the Armenian liberation movement. It could be that drug profits from Sweden and other income were invested in the United States for the long-range establishment of sources of income. These in turn are intended to pay the expenses of the movement. But even if these suspicions are unclear, it is a fact that the heads of the gang have had foreign principals who took charge of the money.

But it is also this phenomenon which made the shoemaker gang so dangerous. Not the connection to the liberation movement in itself, but the circumstance that despite the million-kronor profit the members of the gang lived so simply and operated so discreetly. Not even the top people could or wanted to act in a manner which has otherwise often betrayed major drug dealers once the police became suspicious. The gang nearly got away with it.

Smuggled Drugs Through Lebanon

Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 25 Mar 82 p 8

[Article by Margit Silberstein]

[Text] The 27-year-old janitor and the 35-year-old shoemaker in Huddinge, two of the main figures of the so-called shoemaker gang, nicely and obediently admitted that they had travelled to Lebanon in order to smuggle heroin back into Sweden. The janitor, himself a user, went along to test the quality of the heroin.

The trial in Sollentuna district court on Wednesday was a quiet event which did not correspond with the dramatic background of the multimillion-kronor heroin deals of the shoemaker gang. It involves one of the biggest drug rings ever in Sweden. The name of "shoemaker gang" refers to the fact that in the center of the heroin trade stood two shoemakers from Huddinge and Sollentuna. The heroin was smuggled into the country in the heels of shoes.

Years of Investigation

The shoemaker and the janitor were caught one Sunday evening on Gotgatan in Stockholm after several years of investigation by the Huddinge police. According to district attorney Jerry Martinger, about 70 persons are involved. About 40 have been or are under arrest, among them the Sollentuna shoemaker, who is called the "spider in the net" by the district attorney. Ten persons have already been sentenced to prison terms between 2 and 5 years.

During Wednesday's proceedings the indicted shoemaker from Huddinge related how he returned to Lebanon in order to exchange a 76-gram batch out of 100 grams of heroin which he had bought on a previous trip. But the heroin was bad and the "spider in the net" complained to his shoemaker colleague.

"Everyone laughed at me for buying such bad heroin. That's why I went back to Lebanon to exchange it."

In Lebanon the shoemaker met the janitor who was in Lebanon in order, among other things, to see a doctor about his drug habit. The two travelled together to the city of Zahle, where the janitor had to test the heroin by sniffing, and he judged it to be "average." The shoemaker bought 200 grams.

Special Heels

After that he bought two pairs of shoes, one pair for himself and the other for the janitor, whom district attorney Martigner preferred to call the "guinea pig." The heels of the shoes were removed and the shoemaker made the cavity under the heel a little larger in order to have room for 50 grams of heroin in each heel. The district attorney asked many questions about the mode of procedure. This interest in the shoemaker's profession was received with a great deal of surprise by the shoemaker, who tried to explain that the preparation of the shoes was a simple manual operation.

"I have worked as a shoemaker for 23 years, ever since I was 10. I took a year off and that was to fight the war in Lebanon."

With the same professional background he had chosen a pair of shoes for the janitor which fit him perfectly. Some time later the two partners walked through customs at Arlanda with 50 grams of heroin under each sole of the foot. The bad heroin weighing 76 grams was returned to Sweden in a loaf of Arab bread. The janitor received 55,000 kronor for his help. He used the money to finance his own habit.

At home in Sweden contact was made with the shoemaker in Sollentuna, "the spider in the net." He weighed out the heroin in portions of 9 grams to each package.

"That turned into a lot of packages," the district attorney pointed out.

"Count them yourself! Divide 200 by 9!" the shoemaker urged him.

The shoemaker in Sollentuna took over the heroin and paid, according to the sales he made, 700 kronor per gram to the janitor, who passed that on to the shoemaker in Huddinge. In Lebanon the heroin cost about 150 kronor a gram.

Example of Large-Scale Models Abroad

Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 27 Mar 82 p 9

[Article by Margit Silberstein]

[Text] The shoemaker gang is a typical example of the fact that narcotics crime has changed character on the foreign pattern and has become firmly organized in Sweden. It has thus become much more dangerous.

This was the statement by district attorney Jerry Martinger in his closing argument in the cases against two of the main figures of the so-called shoemaker gang, which is suspected of having smuggled heroin worth millions into Sweden. He urged that the penalty be "as close to the maximum penalty as possible" and lifetime deportation. The maximum penalty for aggravated narcotics crime is 10 years. "Previously, foreign criminals delivered drugs to the Swedish borders, where Swedish distributors took over. But foreign criminals have now established a firm organization in Sweden with wholesalers and retailers, as in any other firm," Jerry Martinger said.

He believes that the shoemaker gang in Huddinge was the large-scale wholesalers and his partner, a 27-year-old janitor, the "guinea pig." The last day of the trial in Sollentuna district court turned into a lengthy affair which did not end until about 9 PM Friday. The personal data alone, that is to say the personal background of those indicted, stretched into several hours. The 27-year-old janitor and the 35-year-old shoemaker then talked about their background in war-torn Lebanon. Sentencing has been set for 7 April. The indicted persons will have to remain in custody until then.

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CSO: 5300/2261

SWEDEN

BRIEFS

CHARGED IN HASHISH SMUGGLING--Malmo--A 30-year-old man was indicted Tuesday at Malmo district court for having smuggled large amounts of narcotics into Sweden. The man is believed to be behind the smuggling of a total of more than 60 kilograms of cannabis and 4 kilograms of amphetamine. His participation in the many smuggling trips was discovered when a Dutch-registered passenger car with NATO license plates was stopped in Malmo. Under the back seat were nearly 11.3 kilograms of cannabis. The man began his smuggling trips in 1978. /Text/ /TT/
/Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 17 Mar 82 p 6/ 11949

TELEPHONE TAP FOILS DRUG SALE--Orebro--When a 29-year-old Karlskoga resident over the telephone bought 1 kilogram of amphetamine from a drug courier under suspicion in Copenhagen, the police were listening in on the telephone. The call was quickly traced and the Karlskoga man could later be apprehended. At first he denied it but confessed when Interpol and the Danish police played the tape for him. He has now been indicted by Karlskoga district court. /Text/ /TT/
/Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 27 Mar 82 p 6/ 11949

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SWITZERLAND

TWELVE COCAINE SMUGGLERS FROM SOUTH AMERICA ARRESTED

Zurich NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG in German 27 Mar 82 p 7

[Article by tgy.: "Successful Strike Against Drug Dealers"]

[Text] In cooperation with the Tessin police and Italian authorities, the Zurich canton police carried out the biggest strike to date in Switzerland against international drug dealers. On Thursday the Zurich canton police reported that six smugglers from South America had been arrested last Friday at the Kloten airport, attempting to enter Switzerland, three women and two men from Bolivia and one woman from Chile. When they were arrested, they were carrying a total of 16.7 kilograms of cocaine hidden in their clothes. On the same day four more members of the gang--two men and two women--were arrested in Lugano on a tip by the Zurich canton police and 4.2 kilograms of cocaine was confiscated. The alleged last two members of the gang could be arrested in Milano.

Cocaine for Italian Black Market

The confiscated, high-quality cocaine, which was intended for the black market in Italy, has a current resale value of 5.25 million Swiss francs. The police assume that the gang, which had been in Zurich and Lugano on previous occasions, had already carried out several cocaine transports from South America to Italy. The conclusive hint that led to the arrest of the international drug dealers came from the Italian border police--the guardia di finanza--in Milano, which had been investigating cocaine couriers from South America for some time.

Police Asking for Witnesses

The four women who were arrested in Kloten and also the four gang members arrested in Lugano were carrying forged passports. Since it is assumed that the drug dealers maintained contacts with members of other gangs in Zurich and Lugano, the police is asking for help from the population. The police is particularly interested in knowing where the accused were staying and what places they were frequenting during earlier visits. It is requested that information be relayed to the Zurich canton police, telephone number (01) 247-22-11 or to any other police station.



One week ago six drug couriers were arrested in Kloten by the Zurich canton police. When arrested, the women were carrying forged passports. The names of the drug smugglers are (top row, from left to right): Patricia de las Mercedes Pinochet (alias: Salas-Ibera Isabel), 23 years old; Trinidad de Vasquez-Quellar (alias: Gonzalez Norma Beatriz), 24 years old; Ana Valenzuela (alias: Maria Montaler-Lopez), 33 years old; (bottom row, from left to right) Gustavo Zeballos-Vaca, 23 years old; Magdalene Prada-Menacho (alias: Soria Maria Teresa), 27 years old and Jose Luis Vargas-Zarate, 25 years old.

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